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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/767,819	01/22/2001	Robert M. Zeidman		9823

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EXAMINER

MANNING, JOHN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/767,819	ZEIDMAN, ROBERT M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John Manning	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to the amended claims have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states: "[h]owever, not only does Matheny not disclose or suggest Applicant's Claims 1-8, Matheny teaches away from Claims 1-8. Specifically, Matheny teaches not only commercial interruptions, but a particularly intrusive type of commercial interruptions- i.e., one which requires the viewer to interact with it in order to receive a reward...". "FIG. 2 illustrates a communication system 200 that enables television sponsors to reward viewers for paying attention to broadcast television commercials **and other types of broadcast programs**" (Col 2, Lines 39-42). The system of Matheny may be used in conjunction with commercial, but the presence of commercials is not required. Assuming arguendo that commercials are present in the broadcasting, the system is still operable after the end of the first commercial and before the end of the second commercial. Therefore, for the specified broadcast segment, content from the broadcast is extracted and displayed with out commercial interruption, while maintaining the complete functionality of the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matheny et al. (US Pat No 6,766,524).

In regard to claim 1, the claimed step of "receiving a broadcast with embedded information about the broadcast, said embedded information being provided to allow constructing a viewing record of the broadcast" is met by Figures 2-3. "Reward notice 260 and reward query 275 are conveyed in trigger messages, or "triggers," broadcast to receivers of broadcast video. Such triggers generally instruct receivers to take a specific action to synchronize the content of a Web page with a broadcast television program. Reward notices and reward queries may be transmitted in the VBI of a broadcast video signal. The text service channels of line 21 of the VBI provide a robust communication medium, albeit at relatively low bandwidth" (Col 4, Lines 28-36). The claimed step of "extracting and displaying content from said broadcast without commercial interruption to a viewer" is met by Figure 2. "Receiver 215 includes a television set 235 connected via a video line 240 to a set-top box 245 similar to set-top box 110 of FIG. 1. Television set 235 and set-top box 245 work together to display Web pages, broadcast television, or both. Web pages are typically downloaded over the Internet 230, but may also be received from video signal 210 or retrieved from a local memory, such as a disk drive 250 in set-top box 245. Set-top box 245 stores Web pages locally in each case" (Col 2, Lines 48-55). "FIG. 2 illustrates a communication system 200 that enables television

sponsors to reward viewers for paying attention to broadcast television commercials **and other types of broadcast programs**" (Col 2, Lines 39-42). The claimed step of "extracting said embedded information from said broadcast" is met by Figure 2. As detailed in Col 4, Lines 28-36, the embedded information is extracted from the VBI. The claimed steps of "storing said embedded information" and "at a predetermined time, sending said stored embedded information and viewer information to a remote computer to allow said viewing record" are met by Figures 2 and 4. "Returning to the example of FIG. 2, if a viewer answers question 269, then set-top box 245 notes the identity of the program in which the question appeared, the time the question was posed, a value expressing how much of the program was viewed, and the viewer's answer to the query. Set-top box 245 then stores this information in a local log file 271 on disk drive 250. In other embodiments, set-top box 245 collects different types of information to identify whether viewers respond to selected programs when prompted. The contents of log file 271 are eventually pushed to remote information store 220. In one embodiment, set-top box 245 periodically establishes network connection 225 to accomplish this push" (Col 3, Lines 46-60). The claimed step of "providing specific incentives to the view based on said embedded information and said viewer information sent" is met by Figure 2-4. "The message that includes unique identifier 275 notifies information store 220 that the viewer associated with receiver 215 has answered a query, and may therefore be entitled to a reward. Information store 220 determines, based on the information identifying the program, whether the viewer provided the

correct answer. If so, then information store 220 allocates the appropriate reward to the viewer" (Col 4, Lines 14-21).

In regard to claim 2, the claimed step of "receiving a broadcast with information about the broadcast embedded into the broadcast at regular time periods, said information including timestamp each identifying the time slice during which the broadcast is received" is met by Figures 2-3. "Reward notice 260 and reward query 275 are conveyed in trigger messages, or "triggers," broadcast to receivers of broadcast video. Such triggers generally instruct receivers to take a specific action to synchronize the content of a Web page with a broadcast television program. Reward notices and reward queries may be transmitted in the VBI of a broadcast video signal. The text service channels of line 21 of the VBI provide a robust communication medium, albeit at relatively low bandwidth" (Col 4, Lines 28-36). "[E]ach trigger includes a time stamp. Thus, the time attribute of the selected reward notice 260 can be used to determine the point at which the viewer tuned into the commercial" (Col 7, Lines 28-30). The claimed step of "extracting and displaying content from said broadcast without commercial interruption to a viewer" is met by Figure 2. "Receiver 215 includes a television set 235 connected via a video line 240 to a set-top box 245 similar to set-top box 110 of FIG. 1. Television set 235 and set-top box 245 work together to display Web pages, broadcast television, or both. Web pages are typically downloaded over the Internet 230, but may also be received from video signal 210 or retrieved from a local memory, such as a disk drive 250 in set-top box 245. Set-top box 245 stores Web pages locally in each case" (Col 2, Lines 48-55). "FIG. 2 illustrates a communication system 200 that enables

television sponsors to reward viewers for paying attention to broadcast television commercials **and other types of broadcast programs**" (Col 2, Lines 39-42). The claimed step of "extracting said embedded information from said broadcast" is met by Figure 2. As detailed in Col 4, Lines 28-36, the embedded information is extracted from the VBI. The claimed step of "incrementing counters for counting time slices during which broadcasting is received" is met by Figure 2-4. "[E]ach trigger includes a time stamp. Thus, the time attribute of the selected reward notice 260 can be used to determine the point at which the viewer tuned into the commercial" (Col 7, Lines 28-30). "Returning to the example of FIG. 2, if a viewer answers question 269, then set-top box 245 notes the identity of the program in which the question appeared, the time the question was posed, a value expressing how much of the program was viewed, and the viewer's answer to the query" (Col 3, Lines 46-50). The claimed steps of "storing said embedded information" and "sending said embedded information and viewer information to a remote computer" are met by Figures 2 and 4. "Returning to the example of FIG. 2, if a viewer answers question 269, then set-top box 245 notes the identity of the program in which the question appeared, the time the question was posed, a value expressing how much of the program was viewed, and the viewer's answer to the query. Set-top box 245 then stores this information in a local log file 271 on disk drive 250. In other embodiments, set-top box 245 collects different types of information to identify whether viewers respond to selected programs when prompted. The contents of log file 271 are eventually pushed to remote information store 220. In one embodiment, set-top box 245 periodically establishes network connection 225 to

accomplish this push" (Col 3, Lines 46-60). The claimed step of "receiving specific incentives based on said embedded information and said viewer information sent" is met by Figure 2-4. "The message that includes unique identifier 275 notifies information store 220 that the viewer associated with receiver 215 has answered a query, and may therefore be entitled to a reward. Information store 220 determines, based on the information identifying the program, whether the viewer provided the correct answer. If so, then information store 220 allocates the appropriate reward to the viewer" (Col 4, Lines 14-21).

In regard to claim 3, the claimed steps of "embedding information along with the broadcast content, said embedded information including information that allows a viewing time of said broadcast content to be determined" and "broadcasting said content with said embedded information to a remote viewer of the content without commercial interruption" are met by Figure 3. "Reward notice 260 and reward query 275 are conveyed in trigger messages, or "triggers," broadcast to receivers of broadcast video. Such triggers generally instruct receivers to take a specific action to synchronize the content of a Web page with a broadcast television program. Reward notices and reward queries may be transmitted in the VBI of a broadcast video signal. The text service channels of line 21 of the VBI provide a robust communication medium, albeit at relatively low bandwidth" (Col 4, Lines 28-36). "Receiver 215 includes a television set 235 connected via a video line 240 to a set-top box 245 similar to set-top box 110 of FIG. 1. Television set 235 and set-top box 245 work together to display Web pages, broadcast television, or both. Web pages are typically downloaded over the Internet

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230, but may also be received from video signal 210 or retrieved from a local memory, such as a disk drive 250 in set-top box 245. Set-top box 245 stores Web pages locally in each case" (Col 2, Lines 48-55). "FIG. 2 illustrates a communication system 200 that enables television sponsors to reward viewers for paying attention to broadcast television commercials **and other types of broadcast programs**" (Col 2, Lines 39-42).

In regard to claim 4, the claimed step of "obtaining stored embedded information from said viewer so as to determine said viewing time" is met by Figures 2-4.

"Returning to the example of FIG. 2, if a viewer answers question 269, then set-top box 245 notes the identity of the program in which the question appeared, the time the question was posed, a value expressing how much of the program was viewed, and the viewer's answer to the query. Set-top box 245 then stores this information in a local log file 271 on disk drive 250. In other embodiments, set-top box 245 collects different types of information to identify whether viewers respond to selected programs when prompted. The contents of log file 271 are eventually pushed to remote information store 220. In one embodiment, set-top box 245 periodically establishes network connection 225 to accomplish this push" (Col 3, Lines 46-60). The claimed step of "sending specific incentives to said viewer based on said viewing time" is met by Figures 2-4. "The message that includes unique identifier 275 notifies information store 220 that the viewer associated with receiver 215 has answered a query, and may therefore be entitled to a reward. Information store 220 determines, based on the information identifying the program, whether the viewer provided the correct answer. If

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so, then information store 220 allocates the appropriate reward to the viewer" (Col 4, Lines 14-21).

Claims 5-6 and 7-8 are met by that discussed above for claims 2-4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matheny et al.

In regard to claims 9-10, the recited limitations are met by that discussed above for claims 2-4 except the reference fails to explicitly disclose creating a Web page containing links to all sponsor incentive websites and to specific incentives and sending said Web page back to said viewer; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Matheny with the use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Manning whose telephone number is 571-272-7352. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 - 5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM

March 17, 2006



JOHN MILLER
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